



SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative holds a pivotal role in achieving the “20-20-20” targets for 2020, enacted through the Climate and Energy package in 2009.

SEAP-PLUS aims at the enhancement of the CoM impact in both quantitative and qualitative terms by: bringing more Signatories and Covenant Supporters or Coordinators in the CoM; assisting municipalities in the preparation of more and better Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs); triggering the cooperation between local authorities, regional authorities and energy stakeholders and between experienced and learning CoM participants.

Six pairs of regional partners have been created to facilitate direct transfer of knowledge and know-how from experienced partners to learning ones, so that the latter can better support their local authorities. The twinning partnerships focus on building the capacity, knowledge and expertise of the learning regions in developing SEAPs. Particular emphasis is given on overcoming the barriers faced during the development and implementation of SEAPs. Three rounds of twinning visits are planned, each consisting of a visit from the learning partners to the experienced partners and vice versa. As it is important to maintain the ties between the learning and experienced regions, SEAP-PLUS foresees the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between each twinning pair. This is expected to extend their cooperation after the duration of the project.

Local Authorities are being mobilized to participate in and / or organise Energy Days in each region. Technical help is also being offered to them by both experienced and learning partners of the project.

Collaboration with the respective energy stakeholders for access to reliable and localized energy data is currently being encouraged through specific actions, such as workshops, roundtables and bilaterals. Regional stakeholders involvement is also being promoted. Follow up actions will ensure future collaboration, such as the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC).

SEAP-PLUS continues to successfully promote the CoM initiative and disseminate the project outputs and results to key target groups, including local, regional, national authorities and decision makers.

NEWS

SEAP-PLUS twinning visits

The second round of the visits is in progress, with the second visit of the learning partners completed:

- LEIF visited Lund, Malmo and Stockholm (with JOKKMOKK) from 14 to 17 May, 2013
- ALESSCO visited Lefkosia (CEA) from 15 to 17 May, 2013
- TCG visited Barcelona (DIBA) from 17 June to 18 June, 2013
- LEAP visited Genoa (ARE Liguria) from 9 July to 11 July, 2013
- BSRAEM visited Vienna, Stetteldorf, Bruck an der Leitha and Güssing (CAA) from 21 July to 24 July, 2013
- AMR visited Freiburg (ICLEI Europe) from 9 September to 10 September, 2013

The second round of twinning visits will be completed with the learning partners visiting the experienced partners between September 2013 and November 2013.

Covenant guidelines now available in Greek, Slovenian and Latvian

Signatory cities of the CoM voluntarily commit to submitting a SEAP, in order to achieve their CO₂ reduction commitment. An extensive set of guidelines has been developed by the Joint Research Centre and CoM Office to assist them in this process. These are now available in [Greek](#), [Slovenian](#) and [Latvian](#), thanks to SEAP-PLUS!

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ACHIEVEMENTS

The Sustainable Energy Action Plan of Nicosia Municipality

The Cyprus Energy Agency (CEA), as a participating partner in the SEAP-PLUS project, invited the Municipality of Nicosia to demonstrate its political commitment by signing the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) agreement in order to achieve the EU sustainability targets for 2020. The Mayor Mr. Konstantinos Giorkatzis, representing the Municipality of Nicosia, approved the invitation of CEA to join SEAP-PLUS and signed the CoM on May 17, 2012.

The SEAP of Nicosia has been successfully developed, as a result of the combined efforts and contribution of CEA and the Energy Team of the Municipality of Nicosia. The final version of the SEAP is expected to be deliberated in October by the Municipal Council. This SEAP includes ambitious and pioneer measures for the active involvement of Nicosia citizens, as well as the implementation of projects and the development of infrastructures (Tram, EV charging points, Photovoltaic, zero energy buildings etc.), in order to achieve the goal of reducing CO₂ emissions by 33% by 2020.

Baseline Year

The year 2009 was selected as the baseline year for determining energy consumption and CO₂ emissions in the Municipality's territory. According to actual consumption data collected by the Electricity Authority of Cyprus (utility), the oil companies, the Statistical Service of Cyprus and other sources, the total energy consumption in 2009 in Nicosia was 1,207,023 MWh, equivalent to 529,350 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. Transport is the largest consumer of energy in the municipality, followed by the tertiary sector and households.



Energy Modelling

CO₂ emissions were forecasted up to 2020, where it was estimated that without any measures (Business As Usual scenario), emissions will amount to 450,226 tonnes (lower than the baseline due to the impact of Governmental Strategies).



SEAP Actions

Proposed measures focus on:

Description	Number
Buildings, equipment / facilities & industries	16
Transport	14
Local electricity production	1
Land use planning	8
Public procurement and stakeholders	3
Working with the citizens and stakeholders	11

The estimated annual emissions reduction for 2020 by applying the above measures amounts to 98,436 tonnes. The impact of this reduction to the Business As Usual Scenario will result to a reduced amount of local CO₂ emissions of 351,790 tonnes. That is, 33% lower with respect to those in the baseline year 2009.

SEAP Budget and Funding

Funding for the implementation of the SEAP is expected to be taken from various resources; the proposed share of each funding source to the SEAP is:

Funding source	Percentage
Municipal budget	17%
SEAP	23%
National Funds	22%
European Funds	12%
EPC Contracts with ESCO	26%

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Vienna submits its Sustainable Energy Action Plan in June 2013

Climate protection has been a very important topic of the Austrian capital city for many years. In 1991 the City of Vienna joined Climate Alliance as one of the first European cities. In 1999 Vienna adopted an ambitious climate protection Program (KliP Wien) until 2009 which was continued in KliP II until 2020.

As a result of the success of the two climate protection programs and SEAP-PLUS activities, Vienna signed the Covenant of Mayors in October 2012 and submitted its SEAP in June 2013. The target is to reduce CO₂ emissions per capita by 21% by 2020 in comparison to the base-line year of 1991. With more than 240 implemented measures in the areas of district heating and electricity generation, housing, businesses, city administration and mobility, 3.7 million tons of CO₂ per year have been avoided so far. 15 billion € have been invested in climate protection measures and 58,000 jobs have been secured since 1999. The remaining savings of 0.8 million tons of CO₂ per year until 2020 should be reached by 380 individual measures in the fields of energy supply, use of energy, mobility, procurement, waste management and public relations.



SEAP-PLUS participated at "Accelerating change at local level for effective delivery of sustainable energy solutions"

TCG attended this two-day seminar, organised jointly by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE) and the INTERACT programme in May 2013 in Brussels. The event brought together practitioners in the field of local and regional energy planning from IEE and from 12 European Territorial Co-operation programmes. The event highlighted the importance of strengthening cross-programme collaboration for speeding up the delivery of energy efficiency targets. During the event, practitioners exchanged best practices on peer learning, integration of sustainable energy into urban planning, regional energy strategy planning and the role of financing mechanisms for the delivery of sustainable energy actions at local and regional level.

NEWS

Europe's largest and Sweden's most northern municipality has signed the CoM

Kiruna municipality is regarding the area Europe's largest municipality. With an overall area of 26.000 square kilometres Kiruna is larger than e.g. Slovenia. In addition Kiruna is Sweden's most northern municipality, well known for the famous Ice Hotel and as one of Europe's capitals for iron mining.



As a result of SEAP-PLUS activities Kiruna's City Council decided to sign the CoM on 22 April 2013!

SEAP-PLUS working together with MESHARTILITY

In order to ensure synergies between the two projects, SEAP-PLUS partners are in contact with MESHARTILITY partners of the same country. As a result ARE Liguria, DIBA, BSRAEM, LEIF and LEAP will be participating and contributing to the respective national events organized by MESHARTILITY partners. CEA will hold a common SEAP-PLUS and MESHARTILITY workshop in Cyprus on October 4, 2013. For more information visit www.meshartility.eu

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Helping municipalities from Northern Sweden developing their SEAPs

At the moment Jokkmokk municipality is supporting 7 municipalities from the regions Norrbotten and Västerbotten to develop their SEAPs. Övertorneå, Skellefteå, Arjeplog and Sweden's both most northern and largest (regarding area) municipality Kiruna have already signed the CoM, the regional capital Luleå, Boden and Älvsbyn are on the way to join the movement.

On February 7 more than 30 municipal representatives including colleagues from Norway and Finland gathered in Jokkmokk to discuss CoM issues. The SEAP-PLUS energy stakeholder workshop in Luleå on March 14 included a lot of information on how to develop a local BEI and opened for fruitful bilateral cooperation between municipalities and energy companies. Four regional energy companies have since then already signed the SEAP-PLUS Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC).

Jokkmokk is offering all SEAP-PLUS partner municipalities continuous support with completing the BEI and developing the SEAPs. A 2-days workshop together with experts from the city of Skellefteå was held in the beginning of June. Workshops together with Kiruna and Boden municipalities will take place in September.

Support provided to Latvian municipalities

LEIF is currently supporting five municipalities in developing a SEAP. The main support, so far, has been on resolving data collection issues and evaluating the existing situation. To date, the municipalities have signed MoCs with local energy providers (in particular, district heating companies that use wood biomass).

The communication with the municipalities is regular, via emails and phone calls. LEIF has also held meetings with municipalities during the Energy Day event and the EU INTERREG IVB funded project "Bioenergy promotion" event. In these meetings, potential energy efficiency improvements and other issues have been discussed, as well as the role of the municipality in planning the development of the energy sector.

EVENTS

Don't miss!

Workshop - Preserving community history through energy efficiency: Krakow, Poland, 26 November 2013. This workshop aims to ensure exchange and knowledge-sharing on topics such as the economic feasibility of refurbishing historic buildings, recommendations and experiences on how to save historic buildings and energy to meet the challenges of growing tourism in European historic centres. To register contact gior-gia.rambelli@iclei.org, for more information visit: www.3encult.eu.

CONCERTO Conference - Energy solutions for Smart Cities & Communities: Brussels, Belgium, 22-23 October 2013. Since 2005, 22 projects have been co-financed by the EU in the CONCERTO initiative. These projects have paved the way to the EU Smart Cities and Communities Innovation Partnership launched in 2012. This event brings together participants from cities and communities, industry and other stakeholders from the EU28 and associated countries of the European Research Area. The economic, technological and political lessons learnt from the 58 demonstration sites of the CONCERTO Initiative will be presented and discussed along with the implications for the Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership. Information & registration: www.amiando.com/concerto_conference.html

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Support to Bulgarian municipalities in developing SEAPs

The five Bulgarian municipalities (Aksakovo, Beloslav, Valchi Dol, Pomorie and Provadiya), selected by BSRAEM to support in the framework of the SEAP-PLUS project, adopted Decisions (by their city councils) for joining the Covenant of Mayors.

BSRAEM experts are providing technical assistance to the targeted municipalities in developing and updating their SEAPs. Progress as been evident, more specifically, the new SEAP of Aksakovo is about to be adopted by the City Council, whilst the development of the SEAPs of Valchi Dol and Beloslav is ongoing.

The Mayors of Aksakovo and Valchi Dol attended the Covenant Ceremony during the EUSEW in June 2013, and the SEAP-PLUS Business Breakfast, accompanied by the BSRAEM team and the mayors of two more municipalities, Sozopol and Dalgopol.

After the second twinning visit of BSRAEM in Austria, the team of the energy agency shared the obtained knowledge and experience with the Black Sea municipalities. As a result, the Nessebar municipality (a Covenant signatory) is planning to develop activities that will result in the territory becoming the first self-sufficient municipality in Bulgaria in terms of energy efficiency and use of RES. With the support of BSRAEM a number of measures will be identified and elaborated for achieving this goal.

Support to Greek municipalities in developing SEAPs

On March 29, June 5 and July 18, 2013, three teleconferences, via Skype, were successfully held by the Greek partners TCG and EPTA, with representatives of municipalities supported by the SEAP-PLUS project. To date, the teleconferences have set up the framework for developing SEAPs with an emphasis on developing the Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI) of a SEAP, in particular energy data sources, methods for collecting and analyzing the data as well as problems faced and potential solutions.

The next teleconference is planned for the 4th of October 2013. Technical problems that experts may be facing for finalizing the BEI, and SEAP actions that municipalities can consider to incor-

EVENTS

Register now!

RFSC Conference 2013 - Towards a European Model of a Sustainable City: Brussels, Belgium, 9 October 2013. The conference will offer practical solutions at a local level, as well as encourage an exchange of experience between European cities. High level speakers include EU Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn, French Minister of Territorial Equality and Housing Cécile Duflot, and Harald Herrmann of the German Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development. Early registration is advised www.rfsc-community.eu/events/rfsc-conference-2013/.

Get involved!

First National Round Table: 25 September 2013, Sofia, Inter Expo Centre, Rodopi Hall. The round table discussions will focus on data exchange between energy suppliers and local authorities. It is co-organised by the Black Sea Regional Energy Centre and BSRAEM, as a result of the cooperation of the two IEE projects - MESHAR-TILITY and SEAP-PLUS. The main topics will be the legal framework for data provision, the necessary information required for developing BEI and SEAPs, opportunities for cooperation between local authorities and energy stakeholders, formal base for cooperation - Memoranda of Coopera-

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Support to Italian municipalities in developing SEAPs

Alessco continues its support activities to the municipalities of the province of Cosenza. In May, [the first meetings](#) took place with mayors of Municipalities involved in the SEAP-PLUS project.

Mayors along with technical staff attended a workshop to discuss the first phase for developing a SEAP, that is to say the data collection process and the compilation of the Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI), as well as the inherent problems with data collection and other associated problems with energy consumption in municipalities. Municipalities were provided with a data collection template and a questionnaire, which technical offices must fill out and return to Alessco.

Future meetings are planned to be held in each municipality involved, in order to form a working group "Energy Team" that will deal firmly with the energy policy of the municipality and collaborate in the implementation of SEAPs.



ARE Liguria is also carrying out activities for mobilizing local authorities within the Liguria Region. The five Municipalities that have been selected under the SEAP-PLUS for technical support are officially signing the Covenant of Mayors.

A meeting with their working group is currently being organized to launch the data collection campaign, and introduce the first steps of the SEAP process. The meeting will also provide the opportunity to explain and discuss in more detail the type of data that are necessary for developing a BEI, as well as establish a common methodology and procedure for developing SEAPs.

EVENTS

Get involved!

Covenant capaCITY @ Local Renewables: Freiburg, Germany, 23-25 October 2013. Are you starting up or looking for ideas to improve your municipal Sustainable Energy Action Plan? Need ideas for measures? Want to become more ambitious? Solve problems? Be inspired - share useful guidance, great ideas and tips on how to proceed with developing and financing your SEAP.

- Study tour 23 / 24 October 2013 - Visit Freiburg and the Solar region (Germany) 1.5 days power-packed with energy and ideas. A great programme - introducing local policy, cool strategies, exemplary approaches, ideas, inspiration!
- Workshop 25 October 2013 - Procurement & Financing at Local Renewables Improve financial access to sustainable energy roll-out.

For more information and to register contact covenant-capacity@iclei.org or visit www.covenant-capacity.eu

International Conference on Regional Climate - CORDEX 2013: Brussels, Belgium, 4-7 November 2013. This event brings together the international community of regional climate scientists to present and discuss results from WCRP regional climate studies. For more information and to register visit: cordex2013.wcrp-climate.org/

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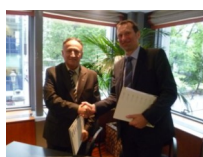
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ENERGY DAYS

SEAP-PLUS Energy Days have been organized in each partner region, including a variety of events such as informative events for local and regional stakeholders promoting the CoM initiative, encouraging the development and implementation of SEAPs and presenting the SEAP-PLUS project. Some of the Energy Days were organised during the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) which this year from the 24th to 28th June, 2013.

A European event: The SEAP-PLUS Business Breakfast Event

The Business Breakfast Event was successfully held on the 24th of June 2013, during EUSEW, in Brussels, before [the CoM Ceremony](#). Mayors, representatives of municipalities and other CoM stakeholders, primarily from cities supported by SEAP-PLUS had the opportunity to meet and exchange experience. The achievements so far and challenges of the SEAP-PLUS twinning partnerships were presented, along with recommendations on how to best involve energy stakeholders and best practices, helpful tools and methods for developing SEAPs.



During the event, two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between project partners were signed, in order to extend the twinning pairs cooperation after the end of the project: Mr. Wolfgang Teubner (Executive Director of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, European Secretariat) signed the MoU with Mr. Tudor Pendiuc (President of AMR and Mayor of Pitești Municipality), and Mr. Wolfgang Mehl (JOKKMOKK's Environmental Strategist) signed the MoU with Ms. Aija Zučika (LEIF's Project Manager).

A special ceremony also took place, during which Mr. Ivan Markoja, the Mayor of Odanci (Slovenia), adhered to the CoM and became an official CoM Signatory.



Energy Day in Greece

TCG invited the municipalities it supports under SEAP-PLUS to participate in an Energy Day activity that involved the organization of a drawing competition for primary schools within their area "I paint what we do in our city to clear the sky".

TCG and the Regional Union of Municipalities of Attica (P.E.D.A.) also organized an informative event "Local Actions for Sustainable Energy" on June 27, 2013, during the EUSEW.

Mayors and representatives of municipalities that participate in the projects SEAP - PLUS and Green Twinning attended the event. During the event, the CoM initiative was presented, along with the actions of TCG's CoM Support Office, the activities and achievements of SEAP-PLUS (including financial tools) and of the project Green Twinning. An award ceremony followed for [the winners of the student drawing competition](#) organized by TCG and nine municipalities from different regions in Greece.



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ENERGY DAYS

Sustainable Energy Week in the province of Barcelona

The Province of Barcelona (DIBA), as a Covenant Coordinator and the Network of Cities and Towns towards Sustainability (Xarxa), as a Covenant Supporter, organized [a series of sustainable energy events](#), in collaboration with the Catalan Institute of Energy (ICAEN) in order to optimize the available disseminating resources and to reinforce the message of the campaign.



All events, part of a long term campaign (2013-2014), took place during the EUSEW and reached 90 municipalities. Activities included: exhibits, workshops, lectures, educational events, energy information points, games, interactive resources, and distribution of informative materials. In the framework of the SEAP-PLUS project. DIBA organized two specific activities that took place in Manresa, Sant Cugat del Vallès and Barcelona, ensuring the participation of a representative from each hosting municipality to highlight the Council's involvement:

- Workshops - gymkhana on energy savings and efficiency for kids between 3 and 12 years old: "We play with energy"
- SEAP PLUS Information Point, for the Covenant of Mayors initiative and on energy efficiency measures for citizens.

Main topics included: Covenant of Mayors, energy use by sector (e.g. transport), main sources of energy consumption in Catalonia, main impacts of energy use and production, advice on measures for achieving energy savings, renewable energy production, actions implemented by municipalities to save energy.

The activities were well received by the participants and achieved a high level of participation, whilst at the same time the events achieved the cooperation of different stakeholders and projects, for the first time in such a large scale.

Energy Day in Latvia

An Energy Day was organised in the Balvu municipality on June 27, 2013, with the cooperation of energy stakeholders. The event included various activities, such as:

- A seminar and discussion sessions on CoM, SEAP, sustainable transport, passive houses and energy efficiency.
- Workshops, exhibitions and consultations on energy efficiency measures for households, public and private buildings.



- Electric bikes demonstration and common bike ride in the city.
- Stands and exhibitions on energy efficiency and energy savings.



Approximately 150 inhabitants participated in the Energy Day. The SEAP PLUS seminar attracted 48 participants, 14 of which were representatives of municipalities.

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ENERGY DAYS

Energy days in Bulgaria

The Sustainable Energy Days of Varna took place on May 16–17, 2013 in the Festival and Congress Centre, and were co-organized by BSRAEM, as a Covenant Supporter, along with the Municipality of Varna and the District Information Point of Varna.



The event included different activities, such as presentations, discussions, exhibitions and demonstrational projects of RES and innovative architectural designs of passive houses.



The first day was dedicated to national operational programs as financial tools for achieving sustainable energy and climate protection and to the opportunities for Varna to develop as an area of low carbon emissions and relatively low

energy dependence. Amongst other information, the SEAP of Varna was presented, along with examples of international co-operation in supporting the Covenant municipalities, including the SEAP-PLUS project. The second day focused on best practices and demonstration projects on energy efficiency and RES.

Participants, which included energy companies, municipality experts in energy and ecology, citizens, students, representatives from businesses and non-profit organizations working in the field of RES and climate change, showed a high level of interest in new carbon reduction policies and the application of innovative energy efficiency measures, as well as in financial instruments for supporting investments.

Useful practical advice was given on smart solutions that can be implemented in order to achieve energy efficiency in households. Complementary activities to the Energy Days included the exhibition "Energy future" and the two films screened, featuring the Covenant of Mayors and energy efficiency.

Jokkmokk Energy and Climate quiz

After the great success of Jokkmokk Energy Days, organized together with [Jokkmokk Winter Conference](#) in February 2013, which attracted more than 200 participants from the whole region and even from Scandinavian neighbor countries Norway and Finland, more local activities were carried out during the EUSEW in June.

An energy and climate quiz was developed by local experts and quiz stations with questions and background information found along a walking path in central Jokkmokk in the Lake Talvatis area during the whole EUSEW. SEAP-PLUS leaflets and sheets for answering the quiz were available at the skiing stadium, the town hall and other central public locations.



The price awarding ceremony for those who had at least 7 of 9 right answers

took place on the last day of the EUSEW as a part of the weekly breakfast meeting for local business representatives. In addition local and regional companies were informed about EUSEW, CoM and SEAP-PLUS activities. The EUSEW quiz was also announced in the local weekly newspaper.

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ENERGY DAYS

Energy Days in Italy

In addition to the Energy Day in the Province of Imperia on May 6, 2013 organized by ARE Liguria (see previous newsletter), the second Italian SEAP-PLUS partner, Alessco, along with the province of Cosenza, as a Covenant Coordinator, and other partners, organized the Energy Days in Cosenza in October 2012.



This was a thematic exhibition, "[Calabria Energy expo](#)", with a focus on the energy sector, where industry experts had the opportunity to meet and talk about energy. The event lasted three days, and included various

activities such as meetings, workshops, and 50 stands (for information or demonstration). This event provided an important showcase for the green economy of the province of Cosenza, and ensured the participation of many key stakeholders.

During the event, Alessco organized a workshop that presented the project SEAP PLUS. The workshop had a high number of participants, including numerous Mayors of Municipalities from the province of Cosenza. In addition to this, Alessco set up an Information Point, for promoting the Covenant of Mayors initiative and energy efficiency measures to citizens.



Alessco, together with the Province of Cosenza, takes part every year in the organization of this event, and has already planned the next event, to be held in Cosenza on 18-20 October 2013.



EVENTS

Look out for!

Jokkmokk Energy Days & Jokkmokk Winter Conference 2014 Make it happen: Eco-Mobility for the North Jokkmokk, Sweden, 3-6 Febr. 2014.

If you are working with local or regional energy and climate plans, transport is an important part of it. It is often also the most difficult challenge to tackle. A good place to get inspiration and help: Jokkmokk Energy Days and Winter Conference 2014!

Jokkmokk Winter Conference is an annual International Climate and Energy Forum at the Arctic Circle in Sweden for Early Career Professionals, Environmentalists and Decision Makers. For more information and to register visit: www.nncc.eu, contact Annica Holmbom: jwc@jokkmokk.se or call +46-72-535 25 56.

Official ceremony for signing the Memoranda of Cooperation: Varna city hall, Bulgaria, 24 September 2013. BSRAEM will officially sign Memoranda of Cooperation with three energy providers of the Varna region - a gas supplier, a district heating provider and an electricity distribution company. BSRAEM provides technical support to the Black Sea municipalities in developing and implementing SEAPs. Thus, close cooperation with key energy providers is a valuable advantage for obtaining reliable data for a BEI and for defining adequate measures for achieving SEAP goals.

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ENERGY DAYS

Energy Days in Austria

On the occasion of the annual conference of Climate Alliance Austria, [two Energy Days](#) were organized in the castle of Hartberg in Styria, on May 28-29, 2013. 150 mayors, municipal executives and energy experts attended the high level event.

Networking, exchange of experiences and scientific inputs from climate researchers

The first day included a meeting of the graduates of the climate protection training programs and the plenary meeting of CAA. Two well-respected climate researchers gave lectures about climate change at a global and a provincial level. The afternoon focused on how to move from talks to action: the climate coordinator of the province of Styria presented the new climate campaign, the environmental and energy officer stated the implemented measures in Hartberg. Children from local kindergartens and schools performed their climate-protection song.



The second part of the afternoon was dedicated to the partnership of CAA with the people of the Rio Negro Region in Brazil and the future challenges. Day 2 started with a plenary discussion regarding climate protection and the new energy efficiency legislation. Afterwards mayors, companies and schools presented their good practices in the fields of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency. Participants had the opportunity to join one out of five different workshops: CoM, civic participation, CO₂-compensation, alimentation and climate justice.

The two very successful Energy Days ended with an excursion to the Ecopark Hartberg with visits to photovoltaic installations, energy headquarters, climate tower and the exhibition Experimentarium.



NEWS

AMR and ICLEI Europe sign agreement to help Romanian cities reduce CO₂ emissions.

Making cities more energy efficient and introducing renewable energy technologies are vital steps in curbing harmful emissions, and in creating more sustainable and liveable urban areas. With this in mind, ICLEI Europe and the Association of Romanian Municipalities (AMR) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, committing both parties to a strategic alliance within the SEAP-PLUS project and to sustain their cooperation beyond the project's lifetime.

ICLEI Europe will transfer know-how and technical knowledge to AMR on preparing, implementing and monitoring SEAPs. It will also offer a tool for preparing greenhouse gas inventories; offer training to Romanian municipalities on how to access and manage energy data, develop inventories, and ideas for start-up implementation, stakeholder involvement; and contribute with relevant know-how and expertise. In response, AMR will disseminate lessons learnt, helpful tools and appropriate methodologies; translate content into Romanian; indicate best practices in Romania; and introduce to others the role that ICLEI plays in the energy and climate debate at an international and European level as a representative of local governments.

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